

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21, 23-27 and 29 are pending. Claims 8, 20, 22, 28 and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 13-19, 21 and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The applicants would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to participate in the interview. The applicants have amended the claims as proposed in the interview and will outline the arguments presented during the interview. The applicants have also amended the other independent claims in order to recite similar limitations to claim 1, as amended.

The applicants have amended claim 1 to further clarify the invention. In the July 23, 2010 Office Action, the Examiner rejected the previously pending claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by paragraphs [0003], [0007], [0008], [0011], [0012], [0013], [0020] and [0022] of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 20030115397 to Hawkins ("Hawkins"). (*Office Action*, pg. 2). The applicants respectfully traverse the current rejection with respect to the presently pending claims.

The applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over Hawkins. Hawkins is directed to a computer system with system management features that have one or more separate system management buses that are dedicated to specific component types. Embodiments of the invention include a number of FRUs, a central management agent and a number of FRU-type-specific management buses. (*Paragraph [0007]*). Hawkins also discloses that there is only one type of FRU coupled to each management bus. When a failure occurs to render a specific management bus

inoperable, an alert is generated by the central management agent and then technicians are deployed to fix the problematic management bus. (*Paragraph [0008]*).

Fig. 1 of Hawkins illustrates a computer system 100 including a central management agent 105 as well as a plurality of different types of FRUs and FRU-type specific management buses. The illustrated system includes five power supplies 111-115 coupled to the central management agent 105 by power supply management bus 110, fan trays 121-122 are coupled to central management agent 105 by fan tray management bus 110, and temperature sensors 131-133 are coupled to central management agent 105 by temperature sensor management bus 130. (*Paragraph [0009]*). The central management agent 105 may monitor or control the power supplies 111-115, the fan trays 121-122 and the temperature sensors 131-133, e.g., the central management agent 105 may determine that the temperature in a part of the system is too high and may send a signal to one of the fan trays 121-122 to increase fan speed. The central management agent may also determine that a component (e.g., one of the power supplies, power supply 111) is not working. It may log information into the system hardware. (*Paragraph [0010]*).

In Hawkins, the central management agent may be an FRU, may collect management information from other FRUs, may monitor discrete sensors on its own private management busses, may send alerts. It also may abstract information from non-intelligent sensors. (*Paragraph [0011]*). In the embodiment of the invention discloses in Fig. 1, the management buses are specific to any type of FRU. They may also be specific to a type of interchangeable component. This allows the management agent to determine that a specific type of component or FRU has failed, e.g., if fan

management bus inoperable, then either fan management bus, one of the fan trays or the central management bus is inoperable. (*Paragraph [0013]*). In an embodiment of the invention, the removal of an individual FRU and/or management bus does not cause the computer system to not operate. Sometimes, computer system has redundant components for back-up in case of failure.

In Hawkins, Fig. 3 is a block diagram of another computer system with dedicated system management buses. Computer 300 has a central management agent 105, a set of two components of a first type 311, 312, which are coupled to the central management agent by a first component type specific management bus 310 and a redundant specific management bus 315, and a set of three components of a second type 321-323, which are coupled to the central management agent by a second component specific management bus 320. (*Paragraph [0020]*).

As can be seen by the disclosure identified above, Hawkins is not disclosing a system **having a star bus topology (or a central device having a connection to each of the outlying controllers and the controllers not having direct connections)**, as is recited in the claims. More importantly, Hawkins does not disclose a star intelligent platform management bus topology including a central baseboard management controller, the plurality of management controllers, and a plurality of intelligent platform management buses, **wherein each of the plurality of intelligent platform management buses only connects a corresponding one of the plurality of management controllers to the central baseboard management controller.**

Hawkins discloses a system like that disclosed in Fig. 1 of the present application where multiple SMCs (or FRUs) are coupled to a single Intelligent Platform Machine

Bus (IPMB). Hawkins is directed to a system where the IPMB only has one type of FRU or component coupled or connected to it, but Hawkins always discloses that multiple FRUs are coupled or connected to that IPMB. Hawkins does disclose there are multiple types of buses, but Hawkins always discloses that there are multiple FRUs or components coupled or connected to those buses. This is not the same as the star intelligent platform management bus of claim 1, wherein **each IPMB only connects one of the plurality of management controllers to the central baseboard management controller**. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over Hawkins.

Claims 13 and 23, as amended, recite limitations similar to claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 23 distinguish over the Hawkins reference for reasons similar to those discussed above in regard to claim 1, as amended. Claims 2-7 and 9 – 12 depend, indirectly or directly, on claim 1; Claims 14-19 and 21 depend, indirectly or directly on claim 13; and claims 24-27, 29 and 30 depend, indirectly or directly on claim 23. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-19, 21, 24-27, 29 and 30 distinguish over Hawkins for the same reasons as those discussed above with regard to independent claim 1, as amended.

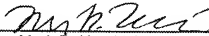
Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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